



October Is Church Worker Appreciation Month

(from <https://blog.cph.org/everyday-faith/inspiration>: blog by Sara Borgstede, 9-29-18)
These are seven ways to bless your pastor for Pastor Appreciation Month—and beyond. Let's take some time during the month of October to thank God for the people He has called to lead us, and offer our pastors encouragement and support.

Pastors and Other Church Workers Do Challenging Work

Pastors and other church workers face a challenging task. The Bible is clear that pastors will be held accountable for the work they do (James 3:1). Church attendance has been steadily declining in the United States over the past decade, especially in mainline denominations. Satan is hard at work attempting to tear down God's people. While we take comfort in the fact that God will forever care for His bride, the church, these are tough realities that church workers face on a regular basis.

Here are some helpful ideas for how you and your congregation can encourage and minister to your pastor and church workers. Your encouragement strengthens them to move forward with the calling God has placed upon them.

1. A night out

Most pastors and church workers live on a modest salary. A night out to dinner or a movie is a special treat. If your pastor is married certainly include enough for him to take his wife to dinner, and if they have young children consider offering to babysit or add extra funds to the gift for them to hire someone.

2. Money or a gift card

Along those same lines, a gift card or cash is always appreciated. Gifts for groceries, books, cph.org, or simply cash helps your pastor stretch a tight budget or invest in much-needed items for himself.

3. Words of encouragement

This gift doesn't cost you any money and is probably the best one you have to offer. Spoken words are great but written ones are even better because they can be read over and over—especially on those tough days. Consider having Sunday School or Lutheran day school children write cards or draw pictures for your pastor and church workers this month. These are sure to bring a huge smile to his face.

4. House and yard work

When I asked fellow pastor's wives what they thought would be most appreciated, house and yard work came up at the top of their lists, especially for those who live in a parsonage. When the church owns the house, the pastor's family relies on the church for the continual tasks of home repair and he may be hesitant to ask for these things if funds are tight.

Offering to repair or update a much-needed area of the house or yard will go a long way toward making your pastor feel appreciated.

5. Prayers

Your pastor and other church workers are regularly under spiritual attack. Your pastor and his family covet your prayers. Take this one step further and tell him you are praying for him. Your words will carry him far and your prayers are powerful (James 5:16).

6. Congregational thank you

Consider hosting a Pastor (or Church Worker) Appreciation Sunday at your church. Typically, this is done the second Sunday in October, but another Sunday works, too. This doesn't need to be elaborate. Having someone stand up at the end of the service and say a few words of thank you and leading a round of applause is a great way to tell your pastor "thanks". A reception with a cake is a nice addition. (And who doesn't like cake?!)

7. Attend church and participate in ministry

When I informally polled pastors and pastor's wives and asked them what they would most like for Pastor Appreciation Month, do you know what they said? *"I most appreciate when people come to church and get involved in ministry."* Your pastor loves and deeply cares about you and your spiritual growth. His heart hurts for church members who are not there. He is continually searching for new ways to bring the Gospel to people in the community who don't know Jesus. **The greatest gift you can give your pastor is to partner with him in this work.**

Question. Persuade. Refer.

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.

QPR (Gatekeepers) Suicide Prevention Training

All are welcome to attend this 90-minute QPR Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention. The program teaches people how to recognize suicide-warning signs, ask about suicide, and persuade people to accept professional help. Community stakeholders will be certified and trained as QPR gatekeepers.

As a universal intervention for troubled youth and others, QPR has been taught to more than two million people worldwide.

Who: Seward community members
Date: Tues, Oct. 16
Where: St. John Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Why: To help prevent suicide
Time: 7–8:30pm

Sponsored by: The Seward Suicide Prevention Coalition, Ministry of St. John Lutheran and Region V Systems

Any questions, please call Amber Fiala at 402-643-4535

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